WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A composition system comprising:

a sound bank containing at least one instrument sound;

an input device for receiving music control signals;

a sequencer coupled to the input device for storing the music control signals; and

a work manager coupled to the sound bank and to the sequencer for generating a musical work file containing the music control signals and at least a portion of the sound bank.

2. The composition system of claim 1 further comprising a sound editor for modifying the sound bank.

3. The composition system of claim 2 wherein modifying the sound bank includes adding instrument sounds to, deleting an instrument sound from and modifying an instrument sound contained in the sound bank.

4. The composition system of claim 1 wherein the input device is a MIDI input device.

5. The composition system of claim 4 wherein the input device is a computer keyboard.

6. The composition system of claim 1 wherein the work manager includes a header utilities engine for generating a header to the musical work file.

7. The composition system of claim 6 wherein the header includes a title, a serial number and the composer's name.

8. The composition system of claim 1 wherein the work manager includes a work certifier for certifying the musical work file.

9. The composition system of claim 1 wherein the work manager includes a data I/O engine for storing the at least a portion of the sound bank and the music control signals into the musical work file.

10. The composition system of claim 9 wherein the music control signals include a work link, and the data I/O engine further stores the work link to the musical work file.

11. The composition system of claim 9 wherein the music control signals include a music sequence, mix changes and effect changes; and the data I/O engine further stores the music sequence, the mix changes and effect changes to the musical work file.

12. The composition system of claim 11, further comprising an effect bank storing effect and mix algorithms; and wherein the data I/O engine stores the effect bank to the music work file.

13. The composition system of claim 1, further comprising a sample bank; and wherein the work manager stores the sample bank to the music work file.

14. The composition system of claim 1 further comprising

a synthesizer engine coupled to the input device for processing the music control signals based on the instrument sounds contained in the sound bank;

a mixer coupled to the synthesizer engine for mixing effects with the processed music control signals; and

a speaker system coupled to the mixer for converting the mixed music control signals to sound.

15. The composition system of claim 14 wherein

the music control signals include a work link specifying a location storing work link data;

the data I/O engine further stores the work link to the musical work file; and

the synthesizer engine retrieves the work link data stored at the location specified by the work link.

16. A method comprising the steps of:

receiving music control signals;

receiving at least a portion of a sound bank containing at least one instrument sound; and

storing the music control signals and received sound bank portion as a musical work file.

17. The method of claim 16 further comprising the step of modifying the sound bank.

18. The method of claim 17 wherein the step of modifying the sound bank includes adding instrument sounds to, deleting an instrument sound from and modifying an instrument sound contained in the sound bank.

19. The method of claim 16 wherein the step of receiving music control signals is achieved using a MIDI keyboard.

20. The method of claim 16 further comprising the step of generating a header to the musical work file.

Sub A2 7

21. The method of claim 20 wherein the header includes a title, a serial number and the composer's name.

22. The method of claim 16 further comprising the step of certifying the musical work file.

23. The method of claim 22 wherein the music control signals include a music sequence, mix changes and effect changes, and further including the step of storing the music sequence, the mix changes and the effect changes to the musical work file.

24. The method of claim 23 wherein the music control signals include a work link, and further including the step of storing the work link to the musical work file.

25. The method of claim 16 further comprising the steps of

processing the music control signals based on the instrument sounds contained in the sound bank;

mixing effects with the processed music control signals; and

converting the mixed music control signals to sound.

26. A composition system comprising:

means for receiving music control signals;

means for receiving at least a portion of a sound bank containing at least one instrument sound; and

means for storing the music control signals and received sound bank portion as a musical work file.

27. A computer-readable medium storing program code for causing a computer to perform the steps of:

receiving music control signals;

receiving at least a portion of a sound bank containing at least one instrument sound; and

storing the music control signals and received sound bank portion as a musical work file.

sub A3

28. A player system comprising:

an input terminal for receiving a musical work file containing topology information, music sequence data and a sound bank which includes at least one instrument sound;

a synthesizer coupled to the input terminal for processing the music sequence data based on the topology information and the sound bank; and

a speaker system coupled to the synthesizer for converting the processed music sequence data to sound.

29. The player system of claim 28 wherein the input terminal includes a CD drive.

30. The player system of claim 28 wherein the input terminal includes a network communications interface.

31. The player system of claim 28 further comprising a mixer for mixing effects with the processed music sequence data.

32. The player system of claim 31 wherein the topology information includes initial effect parameters for controlling the effects.

31

33. The player system of claim 31 wherein the topology information further includes initial mix parameters for controlling the mixer.

34. The player system of claim 31 wherein

the music sequence data includes a work link specifying a location storing work link data; and

the synthesizer engine retrieves the work link data referenced by the work link.

35. The player system of claim 28 further comprising a certifier for certifying right of the player system to convert the processed music sequence to sound.

36. A method comprising the steps of:

receiving a musical work file containing topology information, music sequence data and a sound bank which includes at least one instrument sound;

processing the music sequence data based on the topology information and the sound bank; and

converting the processed music sequence data to sound.

32

37. The method of claim 36 wherein the step of receiving a musical work file is achieved by a CD drive.

38. The method of claim 37 wherein the step of receiving a musical work file is achieved by a network communications interface.

39. The method of claim 36 further comprising the step of mixing effects with the processed music sequence data.

40. The method of claim 39 wherein the topology information includes initial effect parameters for controlling the effects.

41. The method of claim 39 wherein the topology information further includes initial mix parameters for controlling the step of mixing.

42. The method of claim 36

wherein the music sequence data includes a work link specifying a location storing work link data; and

further comprising the step of retrieving the work link data from the location specified by the work link.

33

sub A5

43. The method of claim 36 further comprising the step of certifying right of the player system to convert the processed music sequence to sound.

sub A6

44. A player system comprising:

means for receiving a musical work file containing topology information, music sequence data and a sound bank which includes at least one instrument sound;

means for processing the music sequence data based on the topology information and the sound bank; and

means for converting the processed music sequence data to sound.

45. A computer-readable medium storing program code for causing a computer to perform the steps of:

receiving a musical work file containing topology information, music sequence data and a sound bank which includes at least one instrument sound;

processing the music sequence data based on the topology information and the sound bank; and

converting the processed music sequence data to sound.